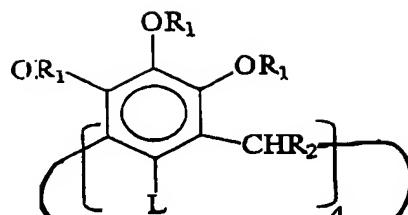


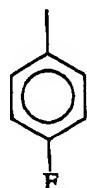
Claims

1. Compounds of formula I



Formula I

5 wherein at least one R_1 is H and the remainder are CH_2CO_2K ; R_2 is



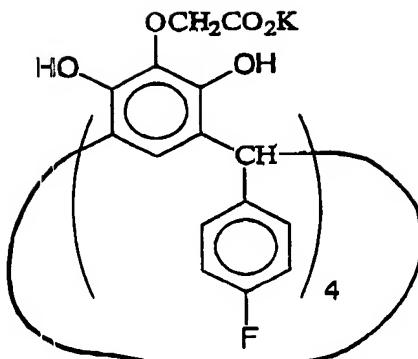
and L is H.

2. A compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 where 4 to 8 of R_1 are
 10 CH_2CO_2K , the remaining R_1 substituents are H, R_2 is



and L is H.

3. A compound of formula II



Formula II

4. A mixture of compounds of formula I having different degrees of alkylation.

5. 5. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or a mixture as claimed in claim 4, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of viral infection, particularly HIV-1 infection.

10 6. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or a mixture as claimed in claim 4, together with an anti-viral agent, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of viral infection, particularly HIV-1 infection.

15 7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula I or II as defined herein together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

20 8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a mixture of compounds according to claim 4, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or a mixture as claimed in claim 4, together with an anti-viral agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

25 10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I comprising the steps of

- (i) reacting aldehyde with HCl and pyrogallol;
- (ii) reacting the product from step (i) with potassium carbonate and ethylbromoacetate in acetone; collecting reaction product and treating with aqueous HCl;
- 5 (iii) reacting product from step (ii) in ethanol with KOH.

11. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I comprising the steps of

- (i) reacting aldehyde with HCl and resorcinol;
- 10 (ii) reacting the product from step (i) with potassium carbonate and ethylbromoacetate in acetone; collecting reaction product and treating with aqueous HCl;
- (iii) reacting product from step (ii) in ethanol with KOH.

15 12. A method of treatment of infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I or II.

13. A method of treatment of infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a mixture of compounds of formula I having 20 different degrees of alkylation.

14. A method of treatment of infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I or II or a mixture of compounds of formula I having different degrees of alkylation, together with 25 an anti-viral agent.